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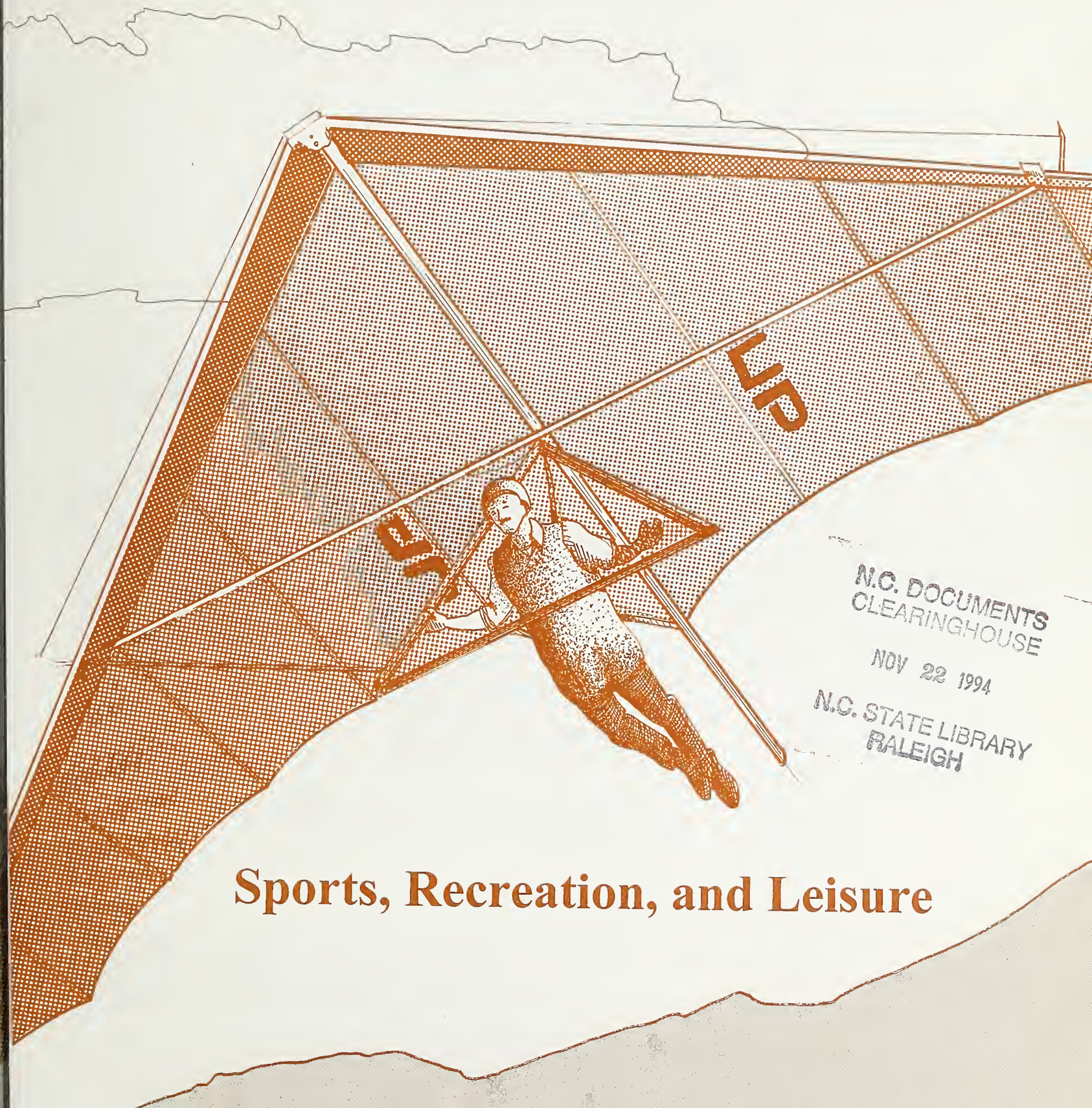
THE STATE HISTORY JOURNAL FOR INQUIRING STUDENTS

Fall 1994 Volume 34, Number 1



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Sports, Recreation, and Leisure

TAR HEEL JUNIOR HISTORIAN

THE STATE HISTORY JOURNAL FOR INQUIRING STUDENTS

Fall 1994 Volume 34, Number 1

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Sports and society in North Carolina

By Jim Sumner

Until recently most historians have concentrated on politics and wars and business. That has changed. Many historians now study how ordinary people have lived their lives. Some of these historians concentrate on the study of sports and **recreation.** They feel that how a society organizes and uses its **leisure** time can tell us as much about that society as how it fights wars or how it is governed. Sports and recreation are reflections of a society. By studying leisure activities in North Carolina, we can also study everything from our state's transition from a rural to an urban society to the struggles of women and minorities to gain equality.

Of course, we cannot tell all of these stories in one issue of this magazine. But we do hope to introduce our readers to some of the ways that sports and recreation have reflected the larger society and how they have changed as our state has changed. We will learn about the way our distant ancestors played games. We will learn how slaves used their leisure time to gain some control of their lives.

We will read about the impact of automobiles on our recreational lives and about women who made sports history at a time when many people felt women should not even play sports. We will also read a prize-winning student essay, an article about our state parks system, and an article about the University of North Carolina's women's soccer dynasty. Finally, we will introduce you to a special new exhibit that celebrates the accomplishments of North Carolina's sports heroes. We hope that you will come away with an appreciation of the important role that sports and recreation have played in the lives of North Carolinians.

Definitions

Recreation and **leisure** are closely related. Leisure means time free from work or duties. Recreation refers to any activity apart from work or duties. Recreation is one of the ways we fill our leisure time.

Colonial games

By Emily Grant

When European colonists arrived in the New World, they brought their traditions, including their games, with them. These colonists did not have lots of leisure time, **high-tech equipment,** or organized sports leagues like we do today. But they could and did find time for fun. Grown-ups as well as children played games to pass the time and to socialize.

North Carolina's population during the colonial period was mostly scattered and **rural.** Most people were **self-sufficient** and lived and worked on small farms. House-raisings, corn-shuckings, quilting bees, and spinning matches were ways people would gather together to work and have fun at the same time. Dancing was also a popular pastime. Colonists in North Carolina danced to music played on horns, drums, violins, bagpipes, and **Jew's harps.**

But large gatherings of people for dances or bees did not occur often. Most games were for individuals or small groups of people. Transportation and communication were difficult, and most people had little time for long hours of recreation. So what did the colonists do for everyday fun? They made it. Girls made dolls from corn husks, corncobs, or cloth. Boys whittled toy wagons or animals from wood. Marbles were made from clay. Sticks, nuts, or seeds became game pieces. Games like hopscotch and draughts (checkers) were drawn in the dirt or marked off on boards. Wealthier colonists may have **imported** some toys and games, but the majority found plenty of resources to use for entertainment in their own backyard. In fact, many games played by the colonists are still played today, such as leapfrog,

Many games played by the colonists over two hundred years ago are still played today. This description of hopscotch comes from a book that was first printed in 1744. Can you name other games that date back to the colonial era?

The little p *Play.*

HOP-SCOTCH.

FIRST make with Chalk an oblong Square,
With wide Partitions here and there;
Then to the firſt a *Tile* convey;
Hop in—then kick the *Tile* away.

RULE *of* LIFE.

Strive with good Senſe to ſtock your Mind,
And to that Senſe be Virtue join'd.

Who

In battledore and shuttlecock, players hit a feathered object called a shuttlecock back and forth. This game later evolved into today's badminton.

cards, Simon says, tug-of-war, hide-and-seek, red rover, hopscotch, dominoes, backgammon, and chess.

Other games played by colonists were similar to those played today but had different names. Jackstraws, known as pickup sticks today, were carved from different types of wood into the shapes of tools. Points were awarded based on which tool was

Colonists enjoyed dancing to music played on horns, bagpipes, violins, and Jew's harps (Above). The oval end of a Jew's harp, or mouth harp, is held between the lips. A player then strikes the thin piece of metal that sticks out from the lips to make music.

pulled without disturbing the pile. Rounders and townball were games played with balls, bats, and bases and are considered to be early forms of baseball. **Battledore and shuttlecock** was similar to today's badminton. But unlike badminton, battledore and shuttlecock used racquets that were often solid wooden paddles and shuttlecocks that were made from feathers and cork. Battledore and shuttlecock also did not use a net. Quoits was another popular game. Quoits were round disks of iron with a hole in the center and varied in weight and size depending on the player. Players threw the quoits at iron pins, or hobs, driven into the ground. Poorer colonists used horseshoes instead of the more expensive quoits. Today's game of horseshoes comes from this version of quoits that the poorer colonists played. Colonists also enjoyed bowling, which was usually played on plantations, in towns, and at taverns on lawn alleys or greens.

Not only were games important to the European colonists but so was **gaming.** Gentlemen laid bets on almost any pastime: card games, board games, politics, and even the weather. Boys wagered a shilling or two. Women even bet on card games played at home. Gambling became so widespread that the colonial legislature made numerous attempts to pass laws to control gaming. They were largely unsuccessful.

Organized sports and sports teams developed long after the colonial period. Horse racing was the sport to participate in, watch, or bet on in colonial North Carolina. One reason for its popularity was that almost every North Carolinian owned or used a horse for farm work and travel, so it was a sport in which many people could participate. Since horse racing was also immensely popular in England, the sport was a favorite for many colonists as well. J. F. D. Smyth, a British traveler,

Playing cards was a popular pastime in the colonial era. These cards were handpainted by Henry Hart in London around 1770. Cards such as these were imported to North Carolina and sold in stores in some towns.

Since most colonists had horses, many enjoyed watching or participating in horse racing. Some cities, such as New Bern (Above, right), even had tracks where people could race or watch races. But most races took place on roads or on private tracks on the property of wealthy colonists. The writers of this 1773 document (Above, left) agreed to race two horses on Colonel John Williams's race path.

observed, "in North Carolina they are much addicted to **quarter-racing**. . . ." Other popular colonial sports included fishing, hunting, wrestling, and foot racing.

African Americans in North Carolina participated in sports but on a more limited basis. Games and sports played by African Americans are not well documented because of the hardships imposed by slavery and the lack of written records about African American leisure activities. African Americans probably played many of the same games played by the European colonists. Games that had been played in Africa for centuries, such as *ntew* (pronounced "n-teh"), an African marble game, and *saa sa brewa* (pronounced "sah sah bray-wah"), a rhythm game, may also have been played by African slaves in the colonies.

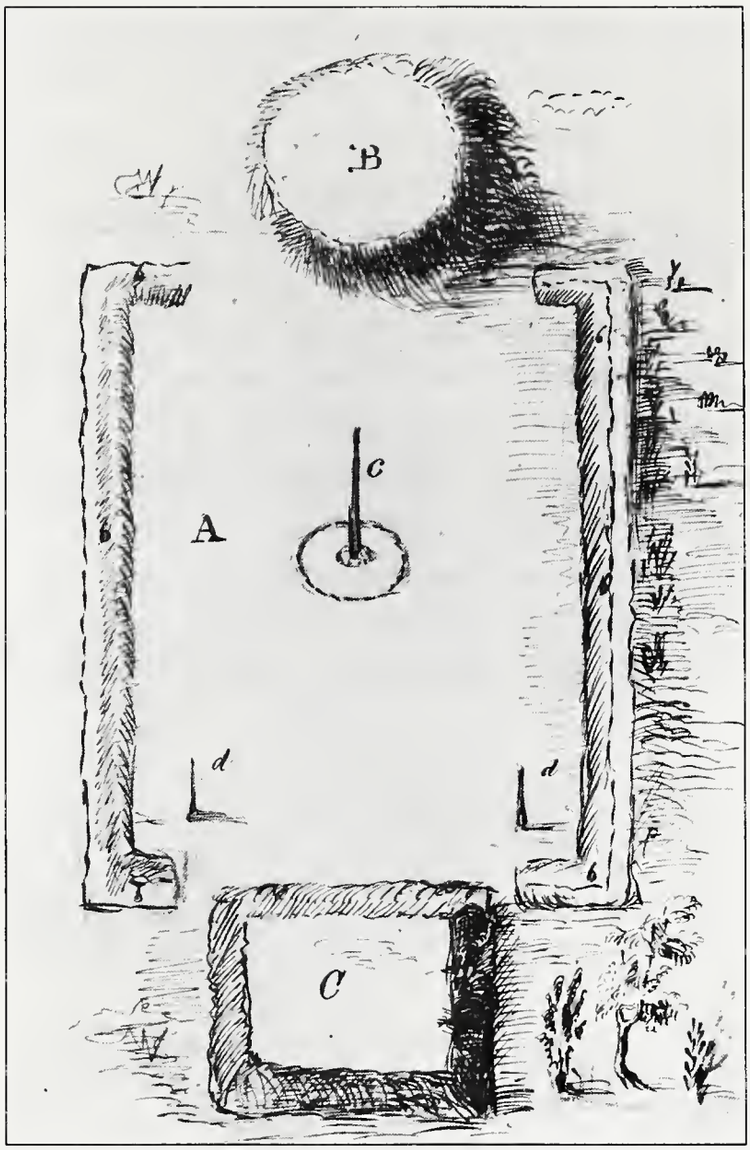
Travel accounts and drawings from the colonial period tell what games and sports Native Americans in North Carolina played. Native Americans wrestled, raced, hunted, and fished. In *A New Voyage to Carolina,* John Lawson recorded,

> Their chiefest Game is a sort of Arithmetick, which is managed by a Parcel of small split Reeds . . . They are fifty one in Number, . . . they throw part of them to their Antagonist; the Art is, to discover, upon sight, how many you

have. . . . They have several other Plays and Games; as, with the Kernels or Stones of Persimmons, which are in effect the same as our Dice, because Winning or Losing depend on which side appear uppermost, and how they happen to fall together. . . . Another Game is managed with a Batoon and a Ball. . . .

This last game Lawson described was an early version of what later became the sport of lacrosse. *Chungke* was yet another sport played by Native Americans in North Carolina. The game was played with two individuals or teams. Each threw a smooth stone across a square piece of ground and then attempted to throw a pole near the spot where the stone landed.

Native Americans, African Americans, and European colonists all learned, made up, or brought sports, games, and toys with them to the land we now know as North Carolina. Rules were not set in stone, equipment was nothing like that of today, but many of our current games and sports can be traced back to colonial times. Life in colonial North Carolina was hard, but people, as always, still managed to find time to make a little fun.



John Bartram drew this chungke field based on his travels in the Carolinas and Georgia. Chungke was played by Native Americans in North Carolina. Players threw a stone on the field and then tried to throw a spear near the stone.

Definitions

High-tech equipment is made using modern research and technology.

People who live in **rural** areas live in the country, as opposed to people who live in urban areas, or cities.

People who are **self-sufficient** can meet their basic needs to live without help from others. For instance, they grow their own food, make their own clothes, and build their own homes.

Jew's harps, or mouth harps, are musical instruments that are held between the lips. A flat piece of metal sticks out from the lips and makes a sound when struck by the fingers.

When an object is brought to one country from another country, it has been **imported.**

In **battledore and shuttlecock,** players used a battledore, which was a light, flat racquet, to hit a feathered object called a shuttlecock back and forth.

Gaming is another word for gambling.

In **quarter-racing,** horses race a quarter of a mile on a straight path.

Sports and recreation in the slave community

By David K. Wiggins

Dancing was a central feature of slave gatherings and varied from plantation to plantation. The Old Plantation *(Top) shows a dance on what is probably a South Carolina plantation around 1800. Note the bent head, back, and arms of the dancer, which may show a tie to African dances. Also note the man playing a banjo, which is an instrument of African origin. Compare this painting with* Kitchen Ball at White Sulphur Springs. *What are some of the differences in the clothing, style of dance, and instruments used? Why do you think this artist chose to paint this picture?*

Life for slaves in the South was difficult and harsh. Slaves were given few freedoms and were treated poorly. They worked under terrible conditions and endured harsh punishments. They were held against their will, and few could escape. All of these factors challenged their dignity as human beings. In spite of these conditions, slaves found sources of enjoyment. They developed ways of living that were free from the control of whites. These ways of living became a culture. Through their culture, slaves overcame the role that White society gave them as slaves and property.

Sports and recreation were some of the most important parts of the slaves' culture. Slaves enjoyed dancing, hunting, and other activities. Through these activities, they demonstrated their physical skills, **ridiculed** Whites, and communicated their thoughts and feelings to fellow slaves. They also gained a sense of being a family, with common concerns and problems.

Slaves of all ages and backgrounds participated in dances, which were the central feature of all slave gatherings. Although the style and form of the dances varied from plantation to plantation, many slave dances closely resembled African dances. Like African dances, they were often performed from a relaxed position in which the knees were bent, the muscles relaxed, and the elbows loose. They used **satire, individual expression,** and **improvisation.** Dancers danced to a powerful rhythm and often moved their entire body.

Patting juba was one slave dance that displayed these features. Derived from an African dance, patting juba involved slapping the

hands, knees, thighs, and body in a rhythmic pattern while others danced and sang. Dr. William B. Smith described a juba dance he had seen on a North Carolina plantation: "The clappers rested the right foot on the heel and its clap on the floor was in perfect unison with the notes of the banjo, and palms of the hands on the corresponding extremities."

Some slaves enjoyed hunting and fishing as much as they enjoyed dancing. A few were allowed to have guns to help them hunt, but most had to make their own traps and fishing poles to catch animals and fish. Slave men relished the chance to provide food for the family. By hunting and fishing to help their families, they gained a much needed feeling of **self-worth.** Perhaps most importantly, these two pursuits let the men spend time with their children while teaching them how to hunt and fish. Fathers and children both enjoyed the **camaraderie** and spirit of these occasions. "My old daddy partly raised his childrens on game," remembered slave Louise Adairs of North Carolina. "Mighty lot of fun when we could go with 'em."

Slaves of every age and status also took part in a variety of games, physical contests, and sports. The activities of slave children ranged from traditional games passed down from the older children to games created on the spot. Slave children participated in role-playing activities, ring games or ring dances, rounders, townball, marbles, swimming, crap shooting, card playing, and a variety of jumping, throwing, and running contests. Sam Stewart, who lived on a large plantation in North Carolina, recalled that "by the time I was eight years old, I could shoot, ride, fish, run, and swim with anyone."

The games of slave children, and older slaves as well, were special in a number of ways. Slaves were often forced to make their own playthings and sporting equipment. Unable to purchase these items, slaves made everything from fishing nets to balls for their various games.

Also, slave games generally were not violent or competitive. This unique trait may have resulted from basic values held by members of the slave community. Slaves believed in working together to help each other and their community. Group unity

This cloth doll was found in the wall of the Bennehan house in the Bennehan Plantation in Durham. It may have been made by a slave for his or her child.

Slaves were often forced to make their own playthings and sporting equipment. Unable to purchase these items, slaves made everything from fishing nets to balls for their various games.

was more important than individual success. In addition, many slave games may have been nonviolent because slaves wanted to reduce the physical abuse that they faced. These beliefs were true in their sporting world as well as in other areas of their lives. Susan David Rhodes, who lived as a slave in North Carolina, noted, "People in my day didn't know book learning but dey studied how to protect each other and didn't believe in fightin' each other."

Even though slaves had extremely difficult lives, they found some enjoyment in their sports and recreation. Through these activities, they not only had fun, but they also expressed their emotions, gained some control of their lives, and drew closer together as a community.

Definitions

To be **ridiculed** is to be laughed at or made fun of.

Satire makes fun of and criticizes someone or something.

A dance that focuses on **individual expression** lets dancers make up their own steps and dance how they choose.

Improvisation is the act of creating something on the spur-of-the-moment, without preparation.

Self-worth is a feeling of self-respect and confidence.

Camaraderie is a feeling of friendly fellowship or companionship.

North Carolina's recreation on wheels from 1900 to 1960

By Robert E. Ireland

This 1927 Model T Ford was used by the Shaw family of Randleman. In the early 1900s, most cars cost $1,000, which was too expensive for many North Carolinians. But the price of cars fell in the next ten years or so, and thousands of North Carolinians placed their orders.

In 1900, automobiles were mostly recreational toys for the wealthy, who used them for short pleasure trips or for racing. William K. Vanderbilt Jr., for example, was an early wealthy racing **enthusiast.** He sponsored the Vanderbilt Cup races, which were 284-mile auto races in Long Island, New York, that attracted crowds of 500,000 people. William Vanderbilt's brother, George Washington Vanderbilt, owned seven luxury cars at his Biltmore estate in Buncombe County. He and his family drove the cars for pleasure rides on the estate's paved roads.

Many Tar Heels, however, could not afford the $1,000 price tag of most cars in the early 1900s. At that time, the average yearly family income in North Carolina was only $570. Yet the **mass production** of automobiles reduced their price and made them more **affordable.** By 1914, for instance, the Model T Ford could be purchased for $490, and thousands of North Carolinians placed their orders.

At the same time, improvements in technology were giving more people free time from work. By 1890, for example, a farmer could use a machine to harvest an acre of wheat in three hours, a task that would have taken sixty-one hours to do by hand. As a result, people had more time and energy for recreation.

The automobile became a major part of recreation in North Carolina. For instance, the tourist trade grew because it no longer had to depend upon railroads to take people to expensive lodges and hotels in the mountains. Instead people could travel cheaply by car into areas not served by rail. They could also stay cheaply

in mobile parks, or campgrounds, where they could sleep in their cars or in cabins or tents. The creation of mobile parks made it possible for people with limited incomes to vacation in the Smoky and Blue Ridge Mountains.

In addition, a massive, state-sponsored, $50 million road-building program began in 1921 to create and improve highways throughout the state. Gas stations, tourist cabins (the forerunners of motels), gift shops, and restaurants sprouted along the ever-expanding roads. As travel by car became cheaper and easier, millions of people began traveling to other places to enjoy golfing, fishing, hunting, touring, and other recreational activities.

At the same time, the automobile itself was becoming a form of recreation. For many, the "Sunday drive" was a way to get out of the city and enjoy a slow, leisurely ramble into the country. The newly developed Eastman Kodak camera

The automobile became an important part of recreation in North Carolina. In the 1930s, the federal government began building the Blue Ridge Parkway in the mountains of North Carolina and Virginia. By 1960, over two million people a year were driving on the Blue Ridge Parkway to go sightseeing, camping, fishing, and to enjoy other activities.

Cars gave people the ability to travel cheaply to other places for recreation. In the early 1930s, these two men traveled to Carteret County to go duck hunting. Enough people began going to Carteret County for duck hunting that local men could make a living as guides.

enabled them to stop and snap pictures of the scenery along the way. Others would stop for picnics and walks in the forest.

Some people rejoiced at the sheer speed and excitement of the automobile. As early as the Vanderbilt Cup races, car racing fascinated and entertained spectators and drivers alike. Even Henry Ford raced his fastest model at Daytona, Florida, in 1905. And Barney Oldfield, Ford's chief race car driver, gained instant fame racing his "old 999" against local challengers at county fairs throughout the nation.

North Carolina was especially bitten by the racing bug. Dozens of little country horse racing tracks soon were choked with dust as cars roared around them. Some of the dirt tracks in North Carolina became well known for their car racing. In Hickory, for example, the local race track was later considered by some racers to be "the best in the two Carolinas." Some of the larger tracks were resurfaced with wood to cut down on dust and to improve traction.

On October 25, 1924, the Charlotte Motor Speedway opened its gates to the state's first major 250-mile race. The track, built at a cost of $380,000, was made entirely of wood. This new 1¼-mile oval was soon to be the site of Tommy Milton's 118.2 miles-per-hour world's record. Meanwhile, stock car racing, another form of auto racing, was developing in the hills and mountains to the west and north of Charlotte.

The stock car was simply a passenger car that had been

Car racing quickly became a popular sport in North Carolina. In this picture, owners and drivers of race cars pose on the wood track of the Charlotte Motor Speedway on its opening day in 1924. Sixty thousand spectators were expected on opening day.

By the 1940s, North Carolina had at least one hundred race tracks in North Carolina with as many as four thousand stock car drivers competing on them. Many of these tracks, such as the Occoneechee Speedway in Hillsborough (Left), were dirt tracks. Tim Flock is driving car #91 and Lee Petty, Richard Petty's father, is driving the car on the right in this 1951 race.

modified or improved by its driver or mechanic. It was not originally intended to be a race track car. However, in the 1940s and 1950s, some men in North Carolina used their cars to transport illegal moonshine, a type of homemade whiskey. Since they had to outrun law enforcement officials, many of them developed racing skills and fast cars. Junior Johnson, for instance, went from being a Wilkes County moonshiner to a national stock car racing champion.

Many stock car drivers began their track careers on a ¾-mile dirt track on Wilkerson Boulevard in Charlotte. The first National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) Grand National race was held on this track in 1949. By the 1940s, North Carolina had at least one hundred race tracks in the state with as many as four thousand drivers seeking victory on them. In the 1940s and 1950s men like Lee Petty (the father of Richard Petty), Fireball Roberts, Bobby Isaacs, Dave Pearson, Banjo Mathews, and Wendell Scott (the first black driver on the NASCAR circuit) raced at tracks throughout the state and the nation. In 1960 the new Charlotte Motor Speedway opened for 600-mile stock car races.

By 1960 the automobile had become a significant part of North Carolina's recreation. By making travel easier, the automobile let more people go to other places to enjoy recreation such as fishing, hunting, camping, skiing, and golf. It also became an object of enjoyment. The enormous popularity of racing and the simple pleasure of a leisurely drive in the country are still evident today.

Definitions

An **enthusiast** is someone who is strongly interested in a cause, object, or pursuit.

In **mass production,** identical items are made in large quantities, often on an assembly line.

An **affordable** object is reasonably priced and can be bought by most people who want it.

Estelle Lawson Page: North Carolina's greatest golfer

By Angela Lumpkin

Estelle Lawson Page, North Carolina's greatest golfer, captured the 1937 Women's National Amateur Championship only six years after learning the sport from her father. Although she never took formal lessons, she frequently played eighteen holes daily and practiced hitting golf balls an additional two to three hours. She often practiced in the hitting cage her father built beside their house.

Since no professional tour for women golfers existed in the 1930s and 1940s, Estelle Lawson Page played as an amateur. In 1932, Page began her domination of the Carolinas Women's Golf Association Championship, capturing ten of the next fourteen titles in the two-state event. In 1935, Page became the first southerner to win the prestigious North and South Women's Golf Championship (North and South), held in Pinehurst. She repeated as champion in 1937, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1944, and 1945. Her long, accurate **tee shots** in the 1938 North and South resulted in her shooting an astounding sixty-nine. This was the first time a woman golfer had broken seventy in a **medal play** tournament. (In golf, the lowest score wins.) In the 1937 Mid-South Tournament, Page's score of seventy-eight and

Estelle Lawson Page, who never took formal lessons, won the Women's National Amateur Championship in 1937, only six years after learning how to play golf from her father. This 1938 illustration shows her ready to defend her title. Her father is depicted at the left.

Sportswriters praised Page for her victories in golf and for her values. What does this 1937 article tell you about Page's values and the values of the society she lived in?

"Mrs. Estelle Lawson Page, who recently won the national women's golf championship at Memphis, has returned to Chapel Hill, where she resumes the role of a very efficient housewife."
—Cutline of 1937 newspaper article

Queen Of America's Golfers Turns To Plain Housewife At Chapel Hill

One Who Has Known Her For A Long Time Talks To Mrs. Estelle Lawson Page About Her Victories, Her Ambitions And Her Hobbies

By MARGARET VALE

Chapel Hill — A flash of teeth in a radiant smile greeted me as Estelle Lawson Page, 29-year-old new American golf queen, broom in hand, came to the open sunlit door of her five-room bungalow. "Why yes, of course, come in," she granted my request for a personality interview. "Only please don't ask me about my cooking or any of those things. Nobody cares what I eat for breakfast."

It was the day after her return home to Chapel Hill from her Memphis triumphs. She led the way into her cosy combination living and dining room—one half of the house. Sunlight poured in through the four blue-curtained windows, revealing a delightful confusion. A Negro boy was finishing polishing the floors. Colorful oriental rugs were piled in a corner. Roses and zinnias flamed in Tar Heel pottery jars. Silver gleamed from old mahogany, beneath ivory shaded lamps. Gay cretonnes covered the big arm chairs. The whole room spelled charm and comfort.

"You'll have to excuse all this mess," Estelle said. "I've been away so many days, I just had to get a boy in to help me have a thorough cleaning."

A lovely old cupboard, in a corner, filled with silver, caught my eye.

HER TROPHIES

"Why that's my trophy cupboard," she answered my exclamation of admiration. "It's antique—at least I hope it is. I bought it for an antique in 1933, right after I won the Carolinas tournament for the second time. You see, so many people would come in and ask to see my trophies, and it was a bother getting them from different rooms; so I decided to keep them all together and bought this."

The cupboard was literally packed with silver cups, goblets, pitchers and trays. When asked how many there were, Mrs. Page smiled again and her answer was that she'd "never counted them." But, she admitted, "I guess I'll have to get a bigger cupboard, for this can't hold any more and they're all over the house—even in the kitchen."

Admiring a handsome silver service in the dining room, I asked what tournament it represented. That was an heirloom, she informed me, inherited from an ancestor of her mother, Horatio Hewitt, the hero of Bunker Hill who "fired the shot heard round the world" and gave the command, "Don't fire

HOUSEWIFE

Mrs. Estelle Lawson Page, who recently won the national women's golf championship at Memphis, has returned to Chapel Hill, where she resumes the role of a very efficient housewife.

the date set for Monday evening, October 25, at the Carolina Inn.

"I'm so happy and so proud," she cried, coming back to the now beautifully ordered room, "Everybody's so wonderful to me. The Country club party for me Friday. This town dinner next Thursday, and so many other lovely invitations. I'm being so dined and fed I'll soon have to start reducing."

"Only," and her eyes twinkled, "you can't reduce and play golf. Most of us look like baby elephants. If you lose a pound it's just too bad. It'll show up in your game. For every pound you lose, you lose a yard in your stroke. Look at Bobby Jones. They told him before they took him in movies he was too fat to look well. So he reduced—took off 20 pounds, and reduced just 20 yards in his strokes too. So, you can't be a sylph and win golf cups too. That's why these pretty little girls who look like this—she held up one strong finger—can't last—they're no resistance."

"You told me not to ask about your cooking," I ventured. "But what about your hobbies or recreations?"

"No hobbies," she laughed, "except golf—and my cat perhaps." Her favorite recreations are reading and the movies. The latter she described as "a pure relief" and said they are a great relaxation before, during and after a match. "All the girls go," she added, and explained that golf strained not only muscles but nerves and brain and that the movies gave real relaxation for all. Gardening she enjoyed, she said, "but," with a mischievous twinkle, "it's the flowers I love, not the digging. I'd rather do my digging hitting a golf ball."

She had done plenty of "digging," she confessed, learning to golf on the hilly course of the Chapel Hill Country club of which she is, of course, a member. "My iron game has been strengthened by the difficulties of this course. It has every hazardous lie in the world and is very exacting because so narrow." "Just like life," she smiled at me. "I was only joking, of course. I don't care who knows that I'm my own cook. I do all the house work—cook, clean up, everything. I don't specially like cooking. I cook just enough to get by—the way most girls do. It's part of my job, so I just go ahead and do it. Yes, I sew, too. I made all these chair covers. I wanted the covers, and had to make 'em myself to have 'em. So I just made 'em. Housekeeping's fun if you go at it like you do golf—just play the game."

"Tell me, I asked," do you help your mother much with her wonderful work as head of the King's

seventy-nine, nine **strokes** under **par,** earned her the championship. Three years later she won again, with a score of twenty-four strokes under par.

Her greatest golfing achievement occurred in 1937 when she won the Women's National Amateur Championship. Page achieved front-page coverage when she defeated Patty Berg 7-6 in **match play,** making her the first southern champion since Atlanta's Alexa Stirling in 1920. *Golf Magazine* selected her as the best American woman golfer in 1937. Page tied for second in the voting for the 1937 Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year.

While competing for and winning the top prize in women's golf was the highlight of her career, Page also was excited to play on the United States **Curtis Cup** teams in 1938 and 1948. "It was one of the great thrills of my life to be chosen as a member of the team," she said. She helped the women's team win both times.

Page was very popular with other players and with a large number of spectators who followed her in tournaments. Part of her popularity could be attributed to the image that she portrayed and to her personal values. Like most women golfers of

her time, Page played in a skirt. She **conformed** to society's belief that upper-class women should appear feminine while playing sports. She also conformed to the idea that a woman's place was in the home, though she could leave briefly for activities viewed as nonthreatening to her real role as a housewife. Page often referred to herself in interviews as a home-loving person who preferred to stay home and cook more than to attend a party. In fact, she was praised for being the only golfer who after winning a major championship rushed home to cook supper for the family.

Born on March 22, 1907, Estelle Lawson Page remembered being raised as a tomboy. Her father, R. B. Lawson, had been a major league baseball player and was a professor, coach, and team physician at the University of North Carolina (UNC) in Chapel Hill. He served as her role model and teacher. He encouraged his daughter to develop her basketball, tennis, and other sports skills as a teenager. Page displayed these skills in helping Chapel Hill High School win three basketball and four tennis state championships. While in college at UNC, she practiced with the men's freshman tennis team. She could not compete in any sport since no competitive sports opportunities were provided for women students at the university.

Like many college-educated women in the 1920s and 1930s, Page returned home to live with her parents after graduation. Although she worked occasionally, she was dependent on her father's financial support. She was allowed to play golf at the Chapel Hill Country Club because her father was a member. She was the only woman permitted to play there in the afternoons because she could keep up with, and usually exceed, the level and pace of play of the male members. Besides serving as her first and only coach, R. B. Lawson teamed with his daughter to win every **mixed tournament** in the state between 1934 and 1937. Throughout her early golfing years, he remained her greatest supporter.

Estelle Lawson met Julius Page when he began taking ballroom dancing lessons from her. Yet it was a golf courtship that led to their marriage in July 1936. Julius Page, who shot in the low seventies, teamed with his wife to win every mixed tournament in North Carolina

In 1935, Page set a women's record for the first ten holes at the Southern Women's Golf Association tournament (Left). That same year, she won the North and South Women's Golf Championship for the first time. She went on to win that championship six more times.

Since no professional tour for women golfers existed in the 1930s and 1940s, Page did not win any money from playing golf. Her father, R. B. Lawson, and her husband, Julius Page (Right), gave her the emotional and financial support she needed to play.

that they entered. Julius Page, like his father-in-law earlier, encouraged and financed his wife's amateur golfing career. As an amateur, Estelle Lawson Page, like other women golfers, did not win any money from playing golf. Without the emotional and financial support of her father and her husband, she would not have been able to play.

Page earned the respect and adoration of other golfers and those who reported on or directed this sport partially because she played for the sheer love of the game. In 1941 her peers elected her president of the Carolinas Women's Golf Association. She was one of the founders, in 1950, of the North Carolina Women's Golf Association and served as its first president. She won the first three championships sponsored by this organization.

Among the numerous honors she received were the Lewis E. Teague Memorial Awards as the 1941 and 1944 Outstanding Female Amateur Athlete in the Carolinas. Her success as a golfer, including fourteen holes-in-one, led to her induction as the first woman into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame in 1963 and the Carolina Golf Hall of Fame in 1981.

Definitions

Tee shots are the first strokes made at the start of play for each hole.

In a **medal play** tournament, the score is based on the total number of strokes needed to complete a specified round of golf, such as eighteen holes.

A **stroke** is a controlled swing of a golf club intended to hit the ball.

Par is the number of strokes that it should take to play each hole.

In **match play,** two players compete on each hole, with the player who uses the fewest strokes winning that hole. The score is then based on the number of holes won.

The **Curtis Cup** is a golf competition between women from the United States and Great Britain.

Someone who obeys or complies with a belief has **conformed** to that belief.

In a **mixed tournament,** teams consist of one male and one female.

Eckie Jordan and Eunie Futch

By Jim Sumner

In the early 1950s, the Hanes Hosiery team was the best women's basketball team in the country. Eckie Jordan, at the front of the line, and Eunie Futch, at the back, led the team to 102 straight victories and three American Amateur Union (AAU) championships.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, says Eunie Futch, she, Eckie Jordan, and their friends "would have gone to the moon to play in a basketball game." Fortunately, Futch and Jordan, two of the world's best women basketball players at the time, did not have to go to the moon. Instead they went to Winston-Salem. They spent their days working for Hanes Hosiery, a company in Winston-Salem that made women's stockings. After work they played for the company's basketball team. For three years this team was the best women's basketball team in the United States.

You might be wondering why such talented players were not playing college basketball. The answer is simple. Most colleges did not have women's basketball teams. Not even all high schools had girls' basketball teams. At that time, all the experts believed that basketball was too **strenuous** for women and that women were not even interested in sports.

The experts were wrong, of course, and Jordan and Futch helped prove it. Evelyn "Eckie" Jordan helped her high school team in Pelzer, South Carolina, win a state championship. After graduation, she played for a team at the local textile mill where she worked. In 1948, after seeing the Hanes Hosiery mill team play, Jordan

When Eckie Jordan walked into the Hanes gym in 1948 to try out for the team, the first person she saw was Eunie Futch. "Lord have mercy on my soul," she thought, "that's the tallest girl I've seen in my life." Jordan and Hanes coach Virgil Yow thought that Jordan might be too short to make the team. But Jordan's speed and accurate shooting impressed the coach, and she made the team.

decided she wanted to play for them. The Hanes coach, Virgil Yow, told her she was probably too small to play for his club. But the five-foot-two-inch Jordan was a clever ball-handler and leader and a dead-eye shooter. She made the team.

Eunies Futch, usually called "Eunie," grew up in Jacksonville, Florida. Since her high school did not have a girls' basketball team, she played for some local clubs until she graduated in 1947. Then coach Yow invited her to join the team. She quickly became a great defensive player and rebounder. Futch and Jordan became key players on a great team.

What was Hanes Hosiery doing with a women's basketball team anyway? In the 1930s and 1940s many textile companies had basketball teams. Hanes Hosiery played with a group of other teams in the Southern Textile League. These teams gave some favorable publicity to their companies. They also provided entertainment to company employees at a time when few of them had automobiles and when television was just being invented.

The game that these women played was very different from today's basketball and from the game played by men at the time. Each team had six players. Two always played offense, two others played defense, and the other two could play offense and defense. This meant that four of the twelve players on the court were always resting, while the other eight played. These rules were

Jordan wore this jacket (Above, left) as a 1951 AAU all-American. She was named an all-American again in 1952. In 1955 Futch and Jordan helped the United States team win first place in the Pan-American games in Mexico City. This first-place medal (Above, right) belonged to Futch.

Jordan, #14, and Futch, #19, play against the Atlanta Blues (Right). In the 1940s and 1950s, most people thought that basketball was too strenuous for women and could harm women's health. Jordan and Futch helped prove that this opinion was wrong.

different from men's rules, which allowed all players to run up and down the court playing both offense and defense. The experts thought that playing by men's rules would be too strenuous for women and could harm women's health.

At the end of the regular season the best teams were invited to play in the American Amateur Union (AAU) national championship. The AAU tournament included industrial teams, like Hanes Hosiery, college teams, and independent teams. It was the only national basketball tournament for women until the 1970s. In 1948 Hanes reached the final eight before losing. In 1949 and 1950 they reached the final four. Then in 1951 they defeated Nashville's Cook's Beer Goldblumes 41-38 to move into the championship game. When Hanes beat Wayland College 50-34, they were the national champions.

After the 1951 season, several of their top players got married and quit playing. Jordan and Futch stayed, however. Coach Yow recruited Lurlyne Greer, who had been the star player for Cook's Goldblumes. Hanes won the

Futch pursues a loose ball in a game against the Amarillo (Texas) Dolls.

1952 championship with ease, winning their last three games by scores of 57-30, 61-25, and 49-23. Jordan, Futch, Greer, and teammate Sarah Parker all were named AAU all-Americans.

Hanes won again in 1953, defeating Wayland College 36-28 for their third consecutive national title. Along the way they broke the AAU record for consecutive victories. Their winning streak of 102 games ended in February 1954, when they lost two games to Wayland College. The following month they lost to the Kansas City Dons in the AAU final four.

After the 1954 season, coach Yow retired, as did the company president, Jim Weeks, who had actively supported the team. Hanes dropped its basketball team, but Futch and Jordan kept working for Hanes. They helped the United States win a women's basketball gold medal in the 1955 Pan-American games, held in Mexico City. These games were played under men's rules. In 1990 they were elected to the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame. They are currently the only women basketball players in the hall.

Women's basketball has come a long way since Eckie Jordan and Eunie Futch played. Now women play under the same rules as men. Top players get scholarships to play on college teams. Women's basketball is an Olympic sport. Today's women players and coaches hope to make women's basketball as popular as men's basketball. But we should not forget pioneers like Jordan and Futch and their teammates and their opponents. They proved that women could love basketball just as much as men do.

Definition

A **strenuous** activity is physically demanding and can be exhausting.

Tar Heel Junior Historian essay contest winner:

Unlucky thirteen for Angier

By Chris Stanley

13

13

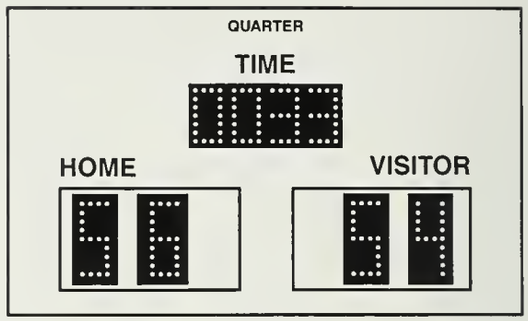
They say the number thirteen is unlucky. For Angier High School, that statement held true. For Boone Trail High School of Mamers, however, it was a different story. On February 29, 1964, Angier and Boone Trail faced off at Campbell College's Carter Gym in Buies Creek for the Harnett County basketball championship. Little did they know they would make record-breaking history that night.

The Bulldogs of Angier had beaten LaFayette and upset top-seeded Lillington to get to the finals, while the second-seeded Pioneers of Boone Trail had swept past Coats and Buies Creek. The two teams were set to play for the title. Oddly enough, they would meet each other on Leap Day, something that happens once every four years. That meant only one thing—this would be no ordinary high school game.

At the end of regulation, the score was tied at 46-46. Then the overtimes came—in large amounts. Each team scored two points in the second, third, and eighth overtimes, each ending in dramatic tying shots during the last fifteen seconds. "I am a very superstitious person," said Angier player Ronnie Ashley, "and I told them [his teammates] that it was getting too close and we had to end it before it got to the thirteenth. I knew it would be bad luck."

In each of the three-minute overtimes, the teams tried to control the ball for last shots, but their attempts failed. In the thirteenth overtime, with fifty-seven seconds to go, Frank Stewart for Boone Trail hit two free throws to clinch it, giving the Pioneers a 56-52 lead. Angier got one basket, but that was all they could manage as Phil Ferrell's nearly perfect pass was picked off by Boone Trail. Boone Trail was champion. Stewart led all scoring with twenty-nine points. Stewart called it "the greatest and most exciting game of his life." Johnny Gardner had twenty-seven points for Angier.

The amazing thing was that neither coach Rudy Brown for Angier nor Al Black for Boone Trail substituted the whole game. Boone Trail went all seventy-one minutes with Frank Stewart, William Brown,



Ralph Hester, Dennis Walls, and Gene Wright, while Angier used Phil Ferrell, Caulton Tudor, Johnny Gardner, Ronnie Ashley, and Robert Hall. All ten players definitely gave their best shot.

The game lasted so long that officials had to get permission to play on so late from the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) and the Harnett County school superintendent. But they could not stop the game then because they had gone too far. They got permission and kept going.

Even more amazingly, that same night in Pulaski, Tennessee, two small schools, Sharon and Dresden, played to nine overtimes under very similar circumstances. Almost even weirder, earlier that same year, Boone Trail and Angier met for the Harnett County football championship. Wouldn't you know it ended in a 13-13 tie. Some coincidence.

Carter Gym that night was a very special place. After all, the whole county was there. The longer the game went, the more people had to be pushed away from the sidelines so that players could inbound a ball. The tension could be cut with a knife. That night, the ten players not only set a national record, they also put the towns of Mamers and Angier on the map. What was referred to as "The Game" brought news about the schools they never even dreamed of, and it brought something that Harnett County would talk about for a long time.

Angier player Mike Stanley said, "It was a heartbreaking loss. . . . I felt the longer [the game] went, the more advantage went to Boone Trail. After the game, we were all very emotionally drained and spent."

For Angier and Boone Trail, it was a roller coaster-ride game and will be forever remembered. Some fans called it the most exciting game they had ever seen in their lives. No matter how hard teams try, the record for the most overtimes in a high school game will not be broken anytime in the near future. Thirteen overtimes is what my grandfather would call "something else."

A day in the life of Ranger Scott

By Margaret Blair Hassell

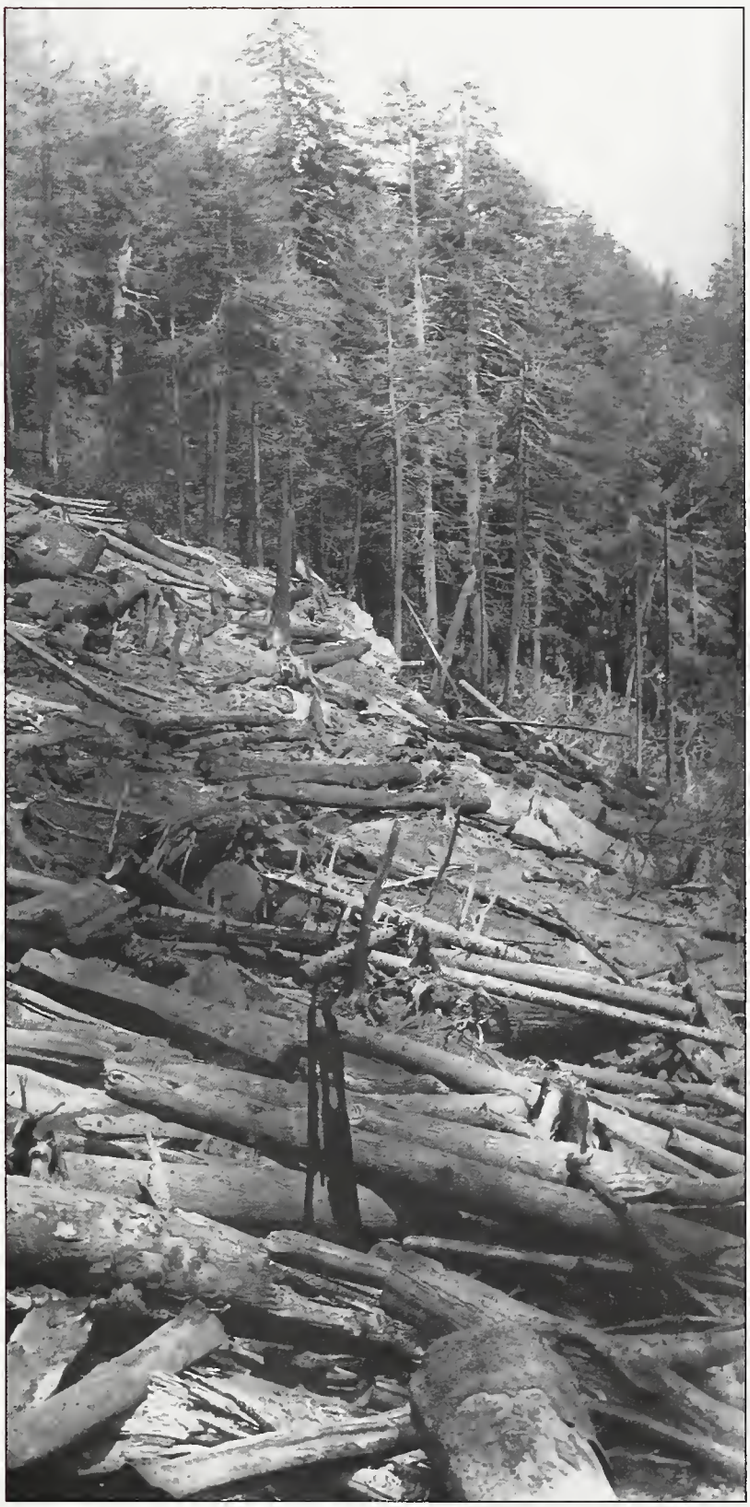
8:00 A.M.: Ranger Scott unlocks the gate at the park's entrance. It is going to be a busy day. More than three hundred people spent last night in the park, and this beautiful weather will bring hundreds of visitors during the day.

As he unlocks the gate, Ranger Scott thinks about how the North Carolina state parks system got started. Early in the twentieth century, poor timbering practices alerted citizens to the devastation of Mount Mitchell. Logging was not only destroying a well-known landmark, the highest peak east of the Mississippi River, it was also killing valuable plants and trees, such as the Fraser fir, that grew on the mountain.

Citizens contacted Governor Locke Craig, who went to Mount Mitchell to see the destruction firsthand. Horrified by what he saw, he convinced the loggers to stop until he could meet with the General Assembly. Upon his return to Raleigh, the governor began a campaign to save this glorious mountain. On March 3, 1915, the General Assembly established Mount Mitchell as North Carolina's first state park.

The state parks system started out as this one small plot of public land. It has now grown into 134,941 acres in forty-four locations.

8:15 A.M.: Ranger Scott rides through the family campground where a family asks him about local attractions. Dealing with visitors was a nice part of his job. But the mission of the state parks system is much more than that. Its mission is to



These trees were cut down in 1914 by Fred A. Perley and W. H. Crockett's logging operation on Mount Mitchell. The destruction of Mount Mitchell's forest by logging alarmed citizens in the western part of the state. They contacted Governor Locke Craig, who in 1915 helped establish Mount Mitchell as North Carolina's first state park to protect it from more logging.

conserve and protect examples of the state's natural beauty and its plants and animals. Another goal of the system is to teach people about the importance of preserving the state's natural heritage. The park system's mission is also to give North Carolina citizens and visitors safe and healthy places for recreation, places where they can be inspired by and can learn about nature.

10:30 A.M.: Time to go by the cabins and the group camps. When he arrives at the cabins, Ranger Scott finds that visitors in Cabin #3 are having problems with the stove. Ranger Scott gets the stove working temporarily, but he adds it to his long repair list when he returns to his jeep. One maintenance person and a shortage of funds make it impossible to keep everything repaired, Ranger Scott thinks to himself.

Thank goodness the **bond referendum** had passed in November. The state parks system was going to receive $35 million. Those funds would be used in parks across the state to build new trails and environmental education facilities, to buy more land, and to make repairs. Thirty-five million dollars was a good start, but it could not meet the $225 million in needs that the system had.

Uh-oh, it was time to lead the nature hike for the Young Explorers.

11:45 A.M.: Teaching kids about nature was one of the most rewarding parts of Ranger Scott's job, but a group of seven-year-olds sure could zap his energy! It had been a relatively routine nature program, until a hognose snake appeared and sent the kids running and screaming. But after Ranger Scott explained the snake was harmless and told them about the hognose's playful tricks, the group was eager to learn more about reptiles.

1:30 P.M.: En route to the picnic area, Ranger Scott is met by a mother whose son has been stung by a swarm of bees. After making sure

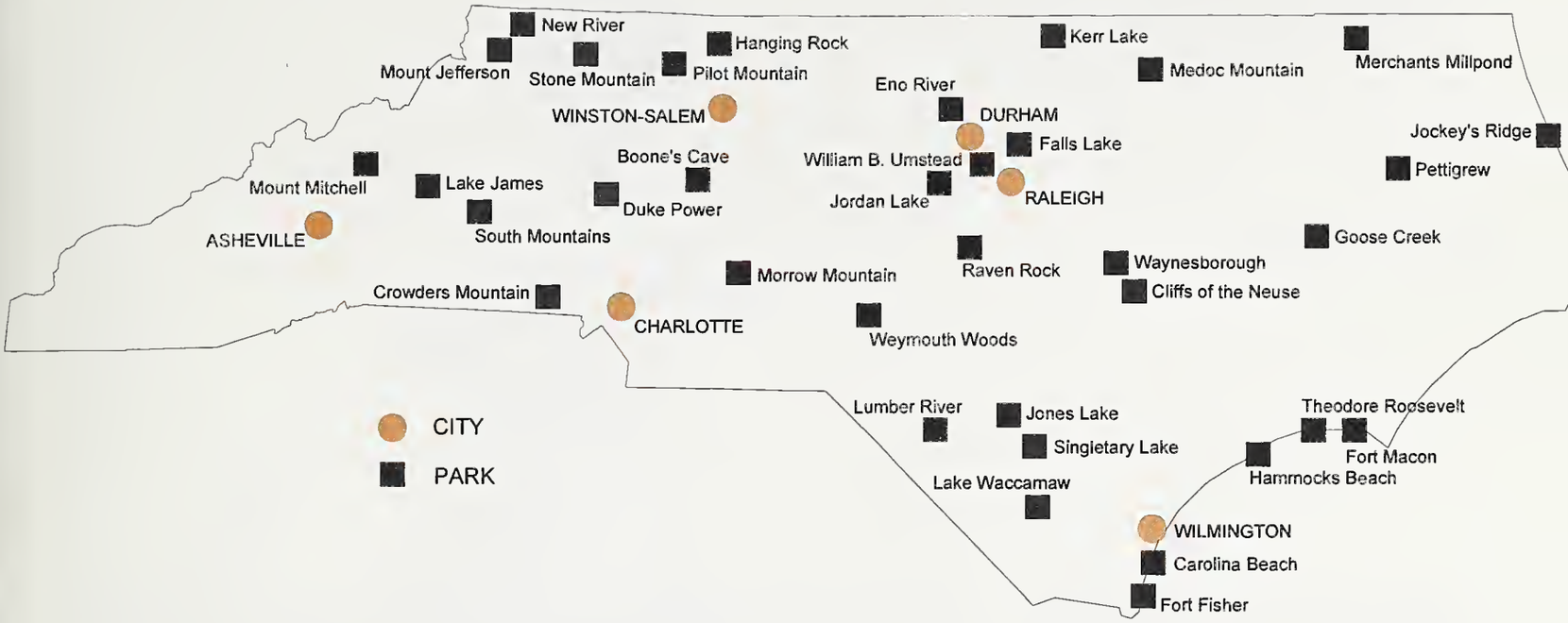
Part of the parks system's mission is providing places for people to enjoy recreational activities. Visitors can canoe through the cypress swamp at Merchants Millpond (Above, left), go horseback riding at South Mountains State Park (Above, right), or go waterskiing (Below) on lakes such as Falls Lake and Kerr Lake. Hiking, swimming, hang gliding, and biking are some of the many other activities visitors can enjoy at different parks.

Another part of the parks system's mission is to teach visitors about nature and about the importance of preserving examples of North Carolina's natural heritage. At most state parks, rangers lead programs and nature hikes to teach visitors about the plants, animals, and geography of the park.

the boy is not having a dangerous reaction to the stings, Ranger Scott applies medication. He thinks about how important it is that rangers are trained to provide emergency medical care. This training is a critical part of making the park a safe place for visitors.

2:30 P.M.: Ranger Scott takes a few minutes to work with and thank the volunteers who are clearing underbrush and placing trail markers on Big Bluff Trail. Volunteers had played an important role in the history of the state parks system. Citizens were often responsible for having parks created, and many of them worked long hours to assist park staff with projects.

4:00 P.M.: Ranger Scott makes his way to the park boundary. Signs have been torn down, and as soon as they are replaced, they are destroyed again. Ranger Scott thinks that the people tearing down the signs are probably not dangerous, but he is proud that he is trained to protect park visitors if necessary.



The North Carolina state parks system stretches from the mountains to the coast. Why do you think it is important for North Carolina to preserve land in these parks? What would North Carolina be like without state parks?

6:00 P.M.: Closing the boathouse takes longer than usual because one of the boats did not come in on time. Fortunately, everyone is safe. The people in one of the canoes were having such fun, they lost track of time. "Easy to do," thinks Ranger Scott.

North Carolina state parks and recreation areas contain lots of facilities for recreational activities. Picnic areas, family and group campgrounds, cabins, marinas, and museums offer a variety of ways to have a good time. Canoeing, swimming, hiking, horseback riding, hang gliding, boating, and fishing are a few of the things visitors do everyday.

6:30 P.M.: Ranger Scott registers the campers who are going to stay overnight and tells everyone about the owl program he is giving later. He heads home to eat and change his uniform before the program.

9:15 P.M.: The owl program was a success. A group from the community had attended along with the campers. Ranger Scott wishes he had more time to plan and give interpretive programs. After making sure all the day-visitors have left, he locks the park's gate and returns to his office to do paperwork.

10:00 P.M.: Another day at the park comes to an end. Ranger Scott has worked with a volunteer group, given programs to both children and adults, and had contact with more than one thousand visitors. He has dealt with maintenance problems, handled a minor medical emergency, and done mounds of paperwork. Just another typical day in the life of a park ranger.

Ranger Scott is exhausted, but he feels like he always does after a full day's work at the state park. He has the satisfaction of knowing that he is preserving North Carolina's natural resources for generations to come.

Definitions

In a **bond referendum,** citizens of a state or city vote whether the government should borrow money to pay for a certain project. If the government does borrow money, it gives the lender a note, or bond, promising to pay back the money at a certain time.

UNC's soccer dynasty

By Tom Harris

The plain, white building tucked behind Carmichael Auditorium on the University of North Carolina (UNC) campus in Chapel Hill does not look like anything special. You would never guess that it is the home of the greatest dynasty in the history of college sports.

The small building, called simply "the Soccer Hut," is the home of the UNC women's soccer program and the office for soccer coach Anson Dorrance.

Since Dorrance started the women's soccer program at UNC in 1979, the team has played 315 games against other college teams and has lost only eight times. UNC has won twelve national championships, winning the last eight championships in a row. From the end of the 1985 season to September of 1990, when they lost to the University of Connecticut, the UNC women played

Anson Dorrance (Right) is considered one of the best soccer coaches in the world. He has coached the UNC women's team to twelve national championships and the United States team to victory in the Women's World Cup in 1991.

When April Heinrichs was named National Player of the Year in 1984, she was the first UNC athlete to win that award. She won again in 1986.

103 straight games without a defeat. They have not lost a game since then.

Of course, UNC's success did not come about quickly or easily. Back in 1979, when UNC decided to begin a women's soccer program, the sport itself was nearly nonexistent. Men's soccer was tremendously popular in most of the world, but women played soccer in only a few countries. In the United States, fewer than fifty colleges had women's teams, and high school teams for girls existed only in a few states, mostly in the West and Northeast.

UNC and several other colleges in the state had women's club teams, informal groups of students and faculty members, mostly from the northeastern states, that played soccer just for fun. But as the number of students attending UNC grew, the interest in women's soccer grew along with it. Eventually, university officials decided to make women's soccer a full varsity sport.

Dorrance was chosen as head coach. He had never coached women's soccer before and did not know where to start. "I was lost," he recalled. "I had played soccer and coached men's teams for years, but I had no idea how to go about coaching women. We had to learn together."

But Dorrance and his players were fast learners and hard workers. In 1981, in its third season, UNC won its first national collegiate championship in the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women tournament. In 1982, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), which oversees competition in most college sports, began governing women's soccer and sponsored its first national championship. UNC won that one, too, beating the University of Central Florida 2-0 in the championship match.

As a result of the team's successes, the best high school players in the nation clamored to join the UNC program. These players included April Heinrichs, who led UNC to NCAA titles in 1983, 1984, and 1986, Lori Henry, and Shannon Higgins, who was National Player of the Year in 1988 and 1989. UNC's record was 89-0-6 in Higgins's four seasons, winning four straight NCAA championships.

By the mid-1980s, women's soccer was beginning to grow nationwide. Spurred on by UNC's phenomenal

From 1986 to 1989, Lori Henry (Right), Carla Werden, and Shannon Higgins led UNC to four straight unbeaten seasons. UNC's loss to the University of Connecticut in 1990 ended a 103-game winning streak.

Kristine Lilly was perhaps the best all-around women's soccer player in UNC's history. She was chosen National Player of the Year in 1990 and 1991.

In 1992 Mia Hamm (Left) and Kristine Lilly led what has been called the best women's college soccer team ever. Within a four day period, UNC defeated teams ranked first, second, fourth, and twelfth in the nation. Later that year UNC won another NCAA title.

success, programs were started or revived at North Carolina State University (State), Duke University (Duke), and a number of other colleges in North Carolina and surrounding states. By the 1990s, programs at State, the University of Virginia, and Duke were becoming national powers.

State was UNC's most formidable rival in the late 1980s, losing to UNC in the NCAA finals in 1988 and in the semifinals in 1989. When the archrivals met in the quarterfinals in Chapel Hill in 1990, the game was a battle.

UNC twice trailed by a goal late in the game. But each time, sophomore Kristine Lilly scored to tie. Then, with just two minutes remaining in overtime, Mia Hamm, who had been playing with a knee injury, lofted a perfect corner kick that was deflected into the goal by teammate Rita Tower. *Soccer America* magazine later called UNC's 4-3 overtime victory "the greatest women's soccer game ever played."

In 1992, Lilly and Hamm led what is acknowledged as the best women's college soccer team of all time. That team set an NCAA record for most victories in a season (25-0) and crushed an excellent Duke team 9-1 in the NCAA championship game.

For the last decade, UNC has so dominated the world of college women's soccer that it now seems almost **invincible.** In fact, UNC wins with such regularity that Dorrance said the objective for his team is not just to win games.

In what has been called "the greatest soccer game ever played," Mia Hamm (Above) kicked the winning goal for UNC in a 1990 NCAA quarterfinal game against State. Hamm was named National Player of the Year in 1992 and 1993. She holds the NCAA all-time records for goals scored (103), assists (72), and points (278).

"The tradition, what it means to play here, is incredible. When you put on that blue uniform with 'Carolina' on the front, something happens to you. You know when you step on the field that you cannot lose."
—Mia Hamm

Partly because of UNC's success, women's soccer is growing more popular every year. More than 150 high schools in North Carolina and more than 200 colleges nationwide now have women's teams. Shannon Higgins (Left) is one of ten former UNC players who are now head soccer coaches at other colleges.

"We strive to play the perfect game," he said, "to make the perfect play or to make the perfect pass. We may never achieve it, but that is the goal."

The players believe wholeheartedly in their coach's ideals of training hard and striving for perfection.

"The tradition, what it means to play here, is incredible," Hamm once said. "When you put on that blue uniform with 'Carolina' on the front, something happens to you. You know when you step on the field that you cannot lose. You know you are better prepared, mentally and physically, than anybody you will play against. You will not allow yourself to lose."

But Dorrance and his players know that UNC's soccer dynasty will not last forever. They know that more women than ever before are playing soccer. In North Carolina alone, more than 150 high schools have varsity girls' soccer teams. More than two hundred colleges will field women's teams this year, including Wake Forest University and Clemson University, which will have women's teams for the first time. All of these teams will be challenging UNC for the national title.

"We know it will end some day," Dorrance said of UNC's dynasty. "Nothing continues forever. But we also know that if we prepare ourselves physically and mentally and play our best, we usually will win. And if we do all of those things and lose, then we have done all that we can do and we can be satisfied with that."

But for the moment, in the small, white building on the UNC campus, the tradition continues and the dynasty lives.

Definitions

To be **invincible** is to be unbeatable.

The North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame

By Jim Sumner

The North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame honors the state's most important sports figures. A native of Raleigh, John Haywood Baker wore this helmet while playing football for North Carolina Central University. He went on to play for the Los Angeles Rams, Philadelphia Eagles, and Pittsburgh Steelers. More than twenty football players and coaches are represented in the hall.

What do Jim "Catfish" Hunter, Arnold Palmer, Richard Petty, Dean Smith, and Kay Yow have in common? If you recognize these people as sports figures, you're absolutely right. However, you only get an A if you know that all five are members of the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame, an elite group of athletes, coaches, administrators, and **media figures** who are honored in a permanent exhibit in the new North Carolina Museum of History building.

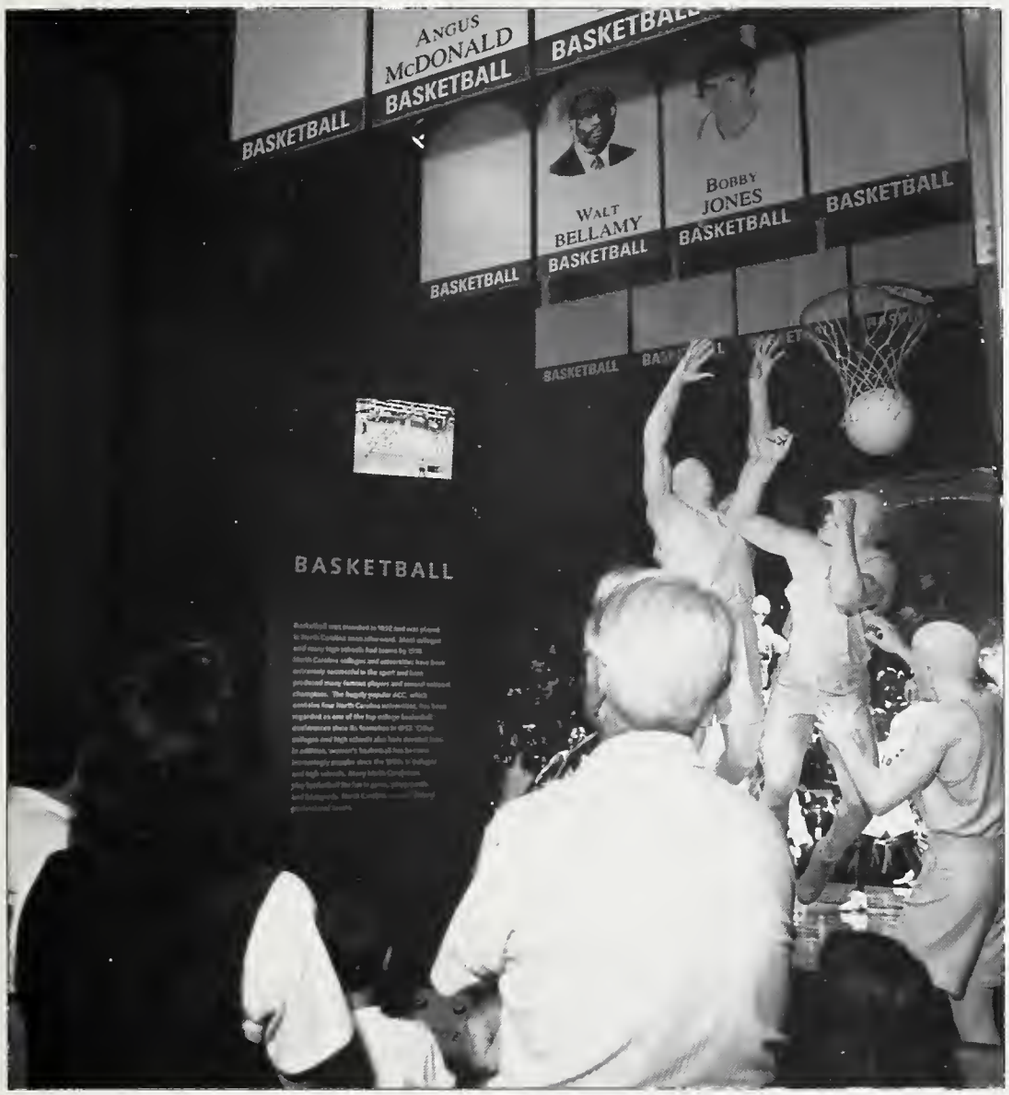
Over 150 men and women have been inducted into the hall. They are people who have lived out the athletic dreams that are only fantasies for most of us. They have participated in the Olympics, the Super Bowl, the World Series, the Final Four, and the Ryder Cup. They have won the Masters or the Daytona 500. They have held world records. They are people with North Carolina roots, people who grew up in our cities and towns, attended our colleges and universities. Many of the athletes in the hall played football, baseball, or basketball, the three most popular spectator team sports. However, there are also runners, stock car racers, golfers,

Buck Leonard, a Rocky Mount native, wore this uniform while playing baseball for the Homestead Grays of Pennsylvania. He led the Grays to nine consecutive pennants from 1937 to 1945 and was named all-star first baseman twelve times in the 1930s and 1940s. Because Leonard played in a time when major league baseball was segregated, or divided by race, he and other African American baseball players played in a separate league called the Negro National League.

tennis players, swimmers, and athletes from other sports.

Exactly what is the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame? It is a private, nonprofit organization that was founded in 1962 for the purpose of recognizing the state's most important sports figures. The next year the hall began selecting and inducting members and collecting artifacts. However, plans to establish a permanent home in Charlotte or Winston-Salem or another North Carolina city never materialized. In fact the hall has never had a permanent home. In the late 1970s the North Carolina Museum of History agreed to store the artifacts. The museum even displayed some of them in the early 1980s. However, this modest exhibit was nothing like

What would it be like to drive in a NASCAR race? You can find out in the Sports Hall of Fame *exhibit when you watch videos filmed inside cars as they raced around Charlotte, Wilkesboro, and Rockingham speedways. You can also see the Pontiac Grand Prix (Above) raced by NASCAR legend Richard Petty. Petty won over two hundred races in his career.*



In the Sports Hall of Fame *exhibit, you can also watch videos of famous moments in basketball, including NCAA tournament games involving teams from North Carolina.*

the 4,000-square-foot exhibit that now awaits visitors to the museum.

The *Sports Hall of Fame* exhibit displays an assortment of balls, bats, gloves, trophies, and uniforms that covers most of the twentieth century. Certainly, the most eye-catching artifact is a Pontiac Grand Prix raced in the late 1980s and early 1990s by the National Association of Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) legend Richard Petty. The hall also has a Petty jump suit and artifacts from other racers, such as Junior Johnson's helmet, Ned Jarrett's jump suit, or a trophy won by Buck Baker. A different kind of racing is illustrated in the track shoes worn by Jim Beatty in 1962, when he became the first person to break the four-minute mile barrier indoors. Almost as interesting as the Petty race car is an early hang glider, developed by Francis Rogallo, that is displayed just outside the gallery entrance.

Baseball fans will be attracted to equipment used by Walter "Buck" Leonard, a Rocky Mount native who played in the Negro National League at a time when major league baseball was **segregated.** Catfish Hunter's New York Yankees jersey is displayed in the exhibit, as is a glove worn by Alvin Crowder in baseball's first All-Star game, in 1933. Both Leonard and Hunter are also members of the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

The football component features jerseys worn by such notables as Roman Gabriel, Sonny Jurgensen, and Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice. Helmets from the 1920s vividly show the advances in equipment made over the years. The 1942 Rose Bowl, held at Duke University during the early days of World War II, is represented by a trophy.

Of course, no exhibit on North Carolina sports would be complete without a sizable amount of basketball.

Many other sports are represented in the hall, including bowling, tennis, swimming, billiards, horse racing, skeet shooting, and running. Charlotte native Jim Beatty wore these shoes when he became the first man to run a mile in less than four minutes on an indoor track.

Basketball superstar Michael Jordan was chosen as an inductee for the Sports Hall of Fame in 1994. He led the University of North Carolina to a national championship in 1982 and the Chicago Bulls to three national championships in the 1990s.

Visitors to the hall can learn about the Dixie Classic, a popular holiday tournament started in 1949 by North Carolina State University coach Everett Case. Meadowlark Lemon's colorful Harlem Globetrotters uniform is on display, along with Phil Ford's distinctive Carolina blue uniform. Dean Smith and Kay Yow's Olympic gold medal teams are represented, as is Clarence "Big House" Gaines's 1967 Winston-Salem State team, winners of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II national championship.

These are just a few of the many artifacts on display in the *North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame* gallery. In addition to these artifacts, the exhibit has an assortment of props, figures, and interactives. Each inductee is represented by a plaque and a banner. Visitors can see an orientation video, watch highlights from the state's great basketball moments, listen to interviews with football players and coaches, "take a lap" around a NASCAR track, and test their knowledge of North Carolina sports trivia.

The *North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame* exhibit is a permanent exhibit. Every year the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame will select and induct new members. Basketball superstar Michael Jordan was among the six new members announced for 1994, although it has not been determined when he will be inducted. These new inductees and those in the future will add new and significant artifacts to the exhibit.

This relationship between a private, statewide sports hall of fame and a public, statewide history museum is not duplicated anywhere else in the United States. It provides a great opportunity to learn about North Carolina's rich sports heritage.

Definitions

Media figures are people involved in communicating information. These people usually work for the mass media, which includes television, radio, newspapers, and magazines.

Something is **segregated** when people of different races are separated and kept apart. When baseball was segregated, White men and African American men could not play on the same teams or in the same leagues.

Meet the authors

Jim Sumner is the curator of sports, recreation, and leisure at the North Carolina Museum of History and is the curator of the *North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame* exhibit. He holds a B.A. in history from Duke University and an M.A. in history from North Carolina State University. He has written numerous books and articles about sport history and has just published *Separating the Men from the Boys,* a book about the history of minor league baseball's Carolina League. **Emily Grant** is the youth program coordinator at the North Carolina Museum of History. She has a B.A. in anthropology and Spanish and a M.A. in museum education. She is always trying to come up with new ways for people to spend their leisure time at the museum. **David K. Wiggins** is a professor of physical education and director of undergraduate health science programs at George Mason University. He has written extensively about sport history, particularly concerning the involvement of African Americans in sports and physical activities. **Robert E. Ireland** teaches history at Wake Technical Community College in Raleigh. He has written a book, *Entering the Auto Age: The Early Automobile in North Carolina, 1900–1930,* and numerous articles on North Carolina subjects. He holds an M.A. in American studies from the University of Wyoming and a Ph.D. in American social history from the University of Maine. He and his family live in Hillsborough. **Angela Lumpkin** has published numerous articles, many focusing on sportswomen, and a book on the history of sport. She is a professor and department head of physical education at North Carolina State University. **Chris Stanley** is a ninth-grade student at Harnett Central High School. He plays football, basketball, and baseball and enjoys studying North Carolina and Civil War history. **Margaret Blair Hassell** is the public information officer for the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation in the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources where she manages the publications program. A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she is interested in historic preservation and lives in a historic home in Hillsborough. **Tom Harris** has been a sportswriter at the *Raleigh News and Observer* since 1975, covering college sports and soccer. He is also a regional correspondent for *Soccer America* magazine and coaches the U-13 Panthers in the Capital Area Soccer League.

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